

Abandoned Uranium Mines - Sections 32 and 33 Mines

Leetsoh Hadasgeedgo T'ó Dabik'ehgo Naházá--
Sections tádiin dóó bi'aan naaki dóó táá'gi

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 9 is working to protect residents of Casamero Lake Chapter by cleaning up leftover waste from past uranium mining operations. Uranium mining operations occurred throughout the Navajo Nation from the 1940s to the 1980s.

Kin Náhálgaidéé' Ni'asdzaán Yik'ihdéézíí' Bił Hazáadóó (U.S. EPA) Náhást'éí Hahoodzohdéé' éí' Tsétah Tó'ak'ólí Táá Sinilíjí kíedahat'ínígi baa hágħasingi biniinaa díí t'ah nahdéké' leetsoh leezh bił haageed héhéh nahgóó kódoolnííl níigo yeinítj. Diné Bikéyah bikáá'góó t'óó'áhayóógo Leetsoh hadas geed t'ah nahdéké' náhást'éí ts'áadah dóó dízdiin dóó náhást'éí ts'áadah dóó tseebídiin yihahédąą' ádaat' é.

The Cobb Nuclear Company operated uranium mines in the Casamero Lake Chapter area and uranium ore was mined and taken out of the area. Now USEPA is looking at two mines called the Section 32 and Section 33 mines.

Cobb Nuclear Company wolyéego kwii Tsétah Tó'ak'ólí Táá Sinilí nahósa'gi léehtoh hadéízgeed dóó leetsoh haadas geedééh éí nahgóó ch'íhesgéh. Kin Náhálgaidéé' Ni'asdzaán Yik'ihdéézíí' Bił Hazáadóó naakigo Section 32 dóó Section 33 gi Leetsoh nasgeed yééhgi nełkah.

At the Section 32 mine, there is an unfenced deep mineshaft at the southeast portion of the site.

Díí Section 32 dóó Shádi'áah dóó ha'a'aahjígo t'ahdii leetsoh hahasgííhę́h góyaa nídzaa góne' ahoodzǟ doo ndi bich'áąh anít'i'dah.

The leftover uranium ore has more radiation than the surrounding area and people should avoid touching it or walking near the mines. Livestock should not be allowed to walk or graze in this area.

Díí leezh leetsoh bił hadasgeedgo t'áá' ákoo yáádaa'áhígíí t'áá yéego wódahdi nida'ałkidgo bits'á daaziil ba'át'e' hóló' áko bila'ashdla'ii hada'asgeed yééhgi leezh t'áadoo bídólnihí dóó ákwii t'áadoo naháhá doo. Naaldlooshii dó' t'áadoo akóó nidaakaihígo' íñosin.

The USEPA Region 9 assessed the uranium ore and mining waste at the mine area and found elevated levels of contaminated soil that need to be cleaned up to protect human health and the environment.

Kin Náhlgaidéę́ Ni’asdzaán Yik’ihdéézíjí’ Bił Hazá Náhást’éí Hahoodzohdóó akwii nida’askáago leezh bił hada’asgeedígíí ba’át’e’ bich’áních’ihígíí wódahgo nida’alkidgo biniinaa nahji’ kódoolníl bíla’ashdla’ii dóó ni’asdzaan bikáági baaháąhasin go biniinaa.

Over time, the contaminated soils in the Section 32 mine area have migrated due to wind and rain. We also found that areas outside the Section 32 mine area contain contaminated soils. Because of the health risks, USEPA Region 9 is removing the contaminated soil from the area around the Section 32 Mine site, including the former transfer area to the south of the Section 32 mine area, and building a temporary stockpile on top of the Section 32 Mine.

Nídzáágóó t’ó bíni’dii díí leezh Section tádiin dóó bi’aan naakidóó bíl hada’asgeedígíí tó dóó niyol nahgóó ayiizhjaa’go biniinaa t’áá hótsaago hólchó’lá. Díí leezh bił hada’asgeedígíí ba’át’e’ hólóogo biniinaa Kin Náhlgaidéę́ Ni’asdzaán Yik’ihdéézíjí’ Bił Hazá Náhást’éí Hahoodzohdóó Section Tádiin dóó bi’aan naakidóó binaagóó leezhígíí nahji’ kwíflééhdoo. Shádi’áhji’go díí Section Tádiin dóó bi’aan naakidóó bíl hazánidóó áltsoh leezh alhaníhiidoo geel.

The consolidated pile will be temporarily stored and sealed using soil tackifier to stabilize and prevent the contaminated soil from moving. After the soil is sealed at Section 32 Mine to prevent exposure to people and livestock, a fence will be placed around the pile with signs warning people to keep out.

Díí leezh alhanihesgíínígíí’ éí t’ó hónígháníjí’ t’ó bíl yaani’doot’al tó doo bidéélníí biyaadéę́ dóó bikáá’déę́ bíl dá’didooljeeh. Áádóó Section Tádiin dóó bi’aan naaki binaagóó áltsoh hasht’ehoolyaago biní’doolt’ih doo’ ákóne’é bíla’ashdla’ii dóó naaldlooshii ákóne’ naagháagóó bee dahna’azt’ádoo.

This removal action is a temporary measure to stabilize the contaminated soil while the Navajo Nation government develops a final disposal solution. USEPA and Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) will discuss the final disposal options and timeframe with the community before making any decisions about permanent disposal.

Díí shíjí kót’áó’ leezhígíí bíl yaa’azáó Diné Bi Wááshindóón hait’áó’ íídoollíígi yaanínáánát’íído. Kin Náhlgaidéę́ Ni’asdzaán Yik’ihdéézíjí’ Bił Hazá Náhást’éí Hahoodzohdóó dóó Diné Bi Wááshindóón t’áá’áyisíí nahji’ kódool nílgóó yinaha’áádoo inda hoolzhishígí da dóó Tsétah Tó’ak’olí dóó kééhat’ínígíí dó’ bidaah nináhdoot’algo atah yaanát’íído go’ índa nahji’ kólnééh doo.

USEPA will apply water when moving the soil to prevent dust. There will be constant air quality monitoring during excavation activities to make sure that residents in the immediate area will be safe from any dust coming from the excavation. It is expected the removal action will take 4-6 weeks to complete.

Kin Náhlgaidéé' Ni'asdzaán Yik'ihdéézíí' Bił Hazá Náhást'éí Hahoodzohdóó nidaalnishígíí díí leezhígíí tó' bee ní nálthohgo doo leezh háá'áadoo. Dóó nílch'ih dó' nida'ajolígíí áhánígo haalzíidgo naalkaah go háájí'go dah bił ních'ihígíí yéego baa'áháyádoo. Ts'ídá díí' dóó hastááh damóójí' altsoh nida'doonish.

Contact Us—Bee'éehózinii

For specific questions about the sections 32 and 33 Mines, Please contact:

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